

## OCTOBER 2006

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## ARTWEAR IN MOTION TEXTILE CENTER RUNWAY SHOW



MORE than 150 original, one-of-a-kind garments from both new and veteran designers will be

featured at the Textile Center's 10th annual runway show and boutique. Artwear in Motion will be held **Saturday, October 21, 7 p.m.**, at the Bloomington Center for the Arts, 1800 W. Old Shakopee Road. A free Artwear Boutique, featuring the work of 30 artists, will be open to the public from 5 - 6:30 p.m. and 8 - 9 p.m. For tickets, call 612-436-0464. For information, visit [www.textilecentermn.org](http://www.textilecentermn.org).

## BUILDING COMMUNITY NATIONAL NIGHT OUT



### Commander Kevin Herman visits with two Bloomington residents.

THE 23RD ANNUAL NATIONAL NIGHT Out crime, drug and violence prevention program was another success. Police Chief John Laux reported that the Police, Fire, Ambulance, Radio Group, Records Unit, Animal Control, Explorers, elected officials and other City staff visited nearly every one of the 331 registered neighborhood parties, making the event truly a team effort.

During the August event, more than 13,800 pounds of food were collected for Volunteers Enlisted to Assist People (VEAP), a local food shelf.

"There was a solid stream of cars the day after the event and we never closed our delivery doors all day long," said VEAP's Christine Pulver.

For more information on National Night Out, call 952-563-8808. To contact VEAP, call 952-888-9616.



## A PLACE TO HANG OUT PROJECT CREATES HOME FOR BATS

A FEW YEARS AGO, APPROXIMATELY 10 BAT HOUSES WERE CONSTRUCTED AND INSTALLED around Bloomington lakes and wetlands as part of an Eagle Scout project by Nathan Braman.

Although the focus of many myths, bats are actually beneficial. They eat huge quantities of mosquitoes and other insects during their nocturnal flights.

"In most cases, bats that live in Minnesota don't bite people or carry diseases," Parks Maintenance Manager Paul Edwardson said. "By giving bats a good place to live, breed and eat, we are providing a natural way to get rid of potentially harmful mosquitoes and other insects that cause damage."

Bat houses are located at Brookside, East and West Bush Lake, Girard Lake and Hyland Hills parks and Normandale, Penn and Marsh lakes. For more information, visit [www.dnr.state.mn.us](http://www.dnr.state.mn.us), keywords: Living with wildlife.

**HALLOWEEN FUN:** Can you find the 15 bats hidden throughout this *Briefing* issue?

## PRESERVING THE NEIGHBORHOOD'S PERSONALITY NEW RESIDENTIAL STANDARDS APPROVED

IN AUGUST, THE CITY COUNCIL ADOPTED an ordinance that helps retain the character of existing residential neighborhoods. New standards were created based on concerns regarding recent residential subdivisions and the compatibility of new houses with surrounding neighborhoods. The ordinance establishes new plat findings, residential height limits, single- and two-family lot widths and single-family lot tree preservation requirements.

Bloomington Senior Planner Glen Markegard said the thrust of the ordinance is to ensure that new lots and new homes fit well with existing neighborhoods.

"The City Council and residents want to make sure that new home construction is compatible with the surrounding neighborhood," Markegard said. "The ordinance addresses residents' concerns and helps establish a balance between an individual's rights to develop his or her property and the needs of the community."

The new residential standards are part of the comprehensive update to the City's zoning ordinance that was largely written 50 years ago. Several standards and use restrictions in the current code reflect the needs and vision of building a 1950s Bloomington rather than maintaining and renewing a city in the 21st century. To improve its zoning ordinance and related City Code provisions, the City is undertaking a multi-year update focused on growth, housing, transportation, community vitality and customer service.

Other updates approved by the City Council include landscaping and screening standards, home-based business standards, a new transit-oriented, mixed-use district near Bloomington's LRT stations and new runway-related zoning districts. The City

is currently working on new standards for commercial areas, parking standards and aircraft noise insulation requirements.

For more information, call Planning at 952-563-8920 or visit

[www.ci.bloomington.mn.us](http://www.ci.bloomington.mn.us), keywords: Zoning ordinance update.



### RESIDENTIAL ZONING STANDARDS UPDATES

- Height limits maintain the character and scale of the City's single-family neighborhoods. In all single-family residential zoning districts, buildings must not exceed two stories (not counting walk-out basements) and are subject to height limitations near side property lines.
- Lot width standards were set so that new lots would better reflect lot widths in the surrounding neighborhood. New lots must conform to 80 percent of the neighborhood median lot width.
- Tree preservation and replanting is important on new single-family development sites to maintain an attractive and desirable community. New guidelines protect a portion of the significant trees on any newly created single-family lot. The requirements do not apply to existing single-family lots, multi-family residential or commercial and industrial properties.

CITY OF BLOOMINGTON  
1800 WEST OLD SHAKOPEE ROAD  
BLOOMINGTON MN 55431-3027

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# ON THE BALLOT THIS NOVEMBER

## PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO THE MINNESOTA CONSTITUTION

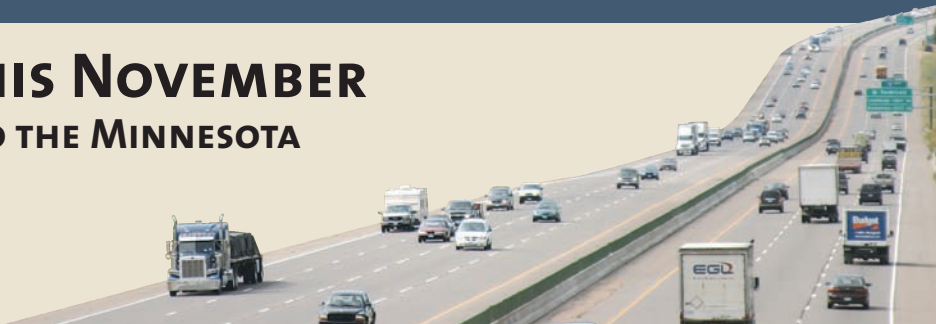
By Mayor Gene Winstead

THE GENERAL ELECTION WILL BE HELD **Tuesday, November 7**. It is important for voters to learn about issues and candidates so that they can make informed choices when going to the polls. One of the issues on the ballot is related to the motor vehicle sales tax.

The 2005 Minnesota Legislature authorized the Transportation Constitutional Amendment that asks voters to decide about future transportation investments.

When purchasing a new vehicle, Minnesotans currently pay a motor vehicle sales tax. At this time, 54 percent of the motor vehicle sales tax revenue is used for funding highways and transit ; the remaining 46 percent goes into the general fund for other state programs.

Next month, voters will be asked to vote on a constitutional amendment that would direct 100 percent of the revenue from the existing motor vehicle sales tax



**VOTE “YES” OR “NO”**

**“Shall the Minnesota Constitution be amended to dedicate revenue from a tax on the sale of new and used motor vehicles over a five-year period, so that after June 30, 2011, all of the revenue is dedicated at least 40 percent for public transit assistance and not more than 60 percent for highway purposes.**

to improve Minnesota’s highways and public transportation systems. The amendment would require that at least 40 percent of the motor vehicle sales tax revenue go toward public transit and no more than 60 percent to highways. The bottom line will be more funds for both transit and state highways.

If the amendment passes, funds would gradually be shifted from the state’s general fund to transportation over a five-year period beginning in 2007. New revenue for transportation improvements would total more than \$300 million per year.

To pass a constitutional amendment, the state requires approval by a majority of people who vote. **It is important to note that if a voter leaves the question blank on the ballot, it will be counted as a “no” vote.**

In the coming weeks, talk about this issue with your family, friends and neighbors. Discussions invite varying views that are vital to the decision-making process and ultimately results in more informed voters.

## 2007 GENERAL FUND BUDGET

### COUNCIL APPROVES PRELIMINARY BUDGET AND LEVY

THE CITY COUNCIL APPROVED A preliminary general operating fund budget of \$49,664,800, a 5.16 percent increase from the 2006 budget of \$47,226,472.

The increase for City services to a Bloomington resident with a median-value home of \$244,800 would be \$2.07 per month in 2007 for a monthly payment of \$62.57. The median-valued home averaged a 6 percent increase in market value in 2006, up

\$13,600 from 2005. Because the total value of city property increased, the overall tax capacity rate for the City will decrease for taxes payable in 2007.

The \$2.07 monthly increase resulted from the approval of a preliminary levy of \$40,361,795 for 2007, a 5.75 percent increase from 2006, in part, to anticipate the possible loss of market value credit from the state in 2007. The Council established the levy to help offset these potential losses.

The preliminary levy can be reduced, but not increased, before final adoption in December. This allows the City to have a better understanding of the potential for a state reduction in Market Value Credit

during the 2007 Legislative Session based on the projected financial conditions in the state’s November economic forecast. If the 2007 levy increase is approved, the average annual increase in the City’s levy from 1994 - 2007 will be 3.36 percent.

City staff uses a five-year planning model that considers both short-term and future needs of our community to recommend a preliminary levy.

**The Truth in Taxation Hearing is Monday, December 4, at 6 p.m. in the Council Chambers.**



**I WANT TO BE HERE FOR YOU.**

If only our water infrastructure could talk. The corner hydrant might remind us that tap water protects us against the threat of fire and that the pipes below our streets need constant attention to keep life-saving water flowing at the right pressure, 24/7, without fail. We are all stewards of the water infrastructure; our water bill payments keep that system strong and reliable. For more information about what your tap water delivers, call 952-563-4905 or visit [www.ci.bloomington.mn.us](http://www.ci.bloomington.mn.us), keywords: Water treatment.



## SAFE FROM THE HYDRANT

### FIRE PROTECTION

A WELL-MAINTAINED WATER SYSTEM IS critical to protecting our communities from the threat of fire.

- In 2004, U.S. fire departments responded to 1.55 million fires across the country.
- Community water systems were first built not to deliver safe drinking water, but to fight fires.
- In Bloomington, water flowing to fire hydrants and home faucets is transported by the same system of water mains, pumps and storage tanks.
- A water system that provides reliable water at a high pressure and volume can be the difference between a manageable fire and an urban inferno.


- Firefighters are the primary operators of fire hydrants, but our utilities division maintains the hydrants that are supported through our water bills.
- Twice a year, the City’s Utilities Division inspects approximately 5,000 public and private water hydrants to ensure that they will perform properly and reliably in an emergency.



**ON TAP NEXT ISSUE:**

**A safe reliable, water supply – central to our community’s economic success.**

Presented in cooperation with

 American Water Works Association

The *Briefing*, published bimonthly by the City of Bloomington, is mailed to our residents and businesses. Direct comments and requests for Braille, larger print or computer disk to Communications Administrator Diann Kirby, 1800 W. Old Shakopee Rd., Bloomington MN 55431-3027; PH 952-563-8818; TTY 952-563-8740; FAX 952-563-8715;E-MAIL [dkirby@ci.bloomington.mn.us](mailto:dkirby@ci.bloomington.mn.us).  
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*Elected officials presented for informational purposes.*

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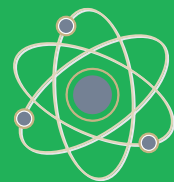
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# Lovely Homes Like This In Your Neighborhood...



## QUALITY RAMBLERS WERE BUILT TO LAST

IN THE 1950s, 1,000 HOMES A YEAR WERE being built in Bloomington, of which 90 percent were rambler. Demand for housing was high; almost every home was sold before it was built.

If you live in a rambler, chances are it was constructed by one of the three most prominent builders in Bloomington at the time – Marv Anderson, Orrin Thompson or Vern Donnay. Most were building three-bedroom and one-bath models. Four - bedroom and one-and-a-half-bath rambler were sold to those who could afford or needed a larger home . In addition to the “big three,” at least a dozen other builders were constructing rambler during Bloomington’s population explosion in the 1950s.

According to Phil Hall, Bloomington probably has more rambler than any other suburb in the metropolitan area. Hall was a City

Building Inspector from 1958 to 1994. Prior to that, he worked on a construction crew framing rambler. “The assembly line production of the rambler was amazing,” Hall said. “The developer would come in, buy up about 160 acres and plat out the streets. First they’d dig out a whole row of basements. Crews would come by and cap the basements, then another crew would roof and side them all.”

It might have been a mass production process, but the quality of materials used in those days was superb. Douglas fir, cedar-shake siding, oak floors, and cast iron and copper plumbing are materials not found in many homes constructed today.

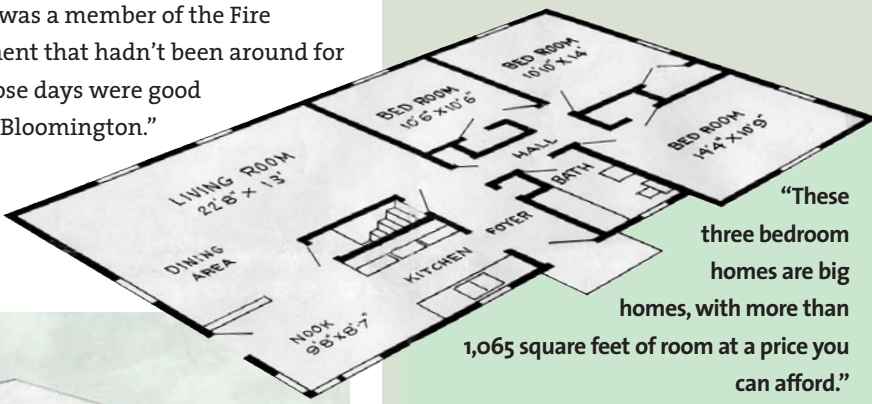
Once completed, additions would often be named after the builder’s family members or employees. Nancy Lou and Millie Butler are typical subdivisions named in the 1950s.

Hall has lived in his Bloomington rambler for 50 years. He bought it when he returned from the Korean war with the help of a 4.5 percent interest G.I. loan. The price was \$12,900. He said he still has a love affair with the rambler and what it represents.

“Just about everyone on my block was a veteran and had four or five kids,” Hall said. “The Bloomington Athletic Association had just begun. I was a member of the Fire Department that hadn’t been around for long. Those days were good times in Bloomington.”



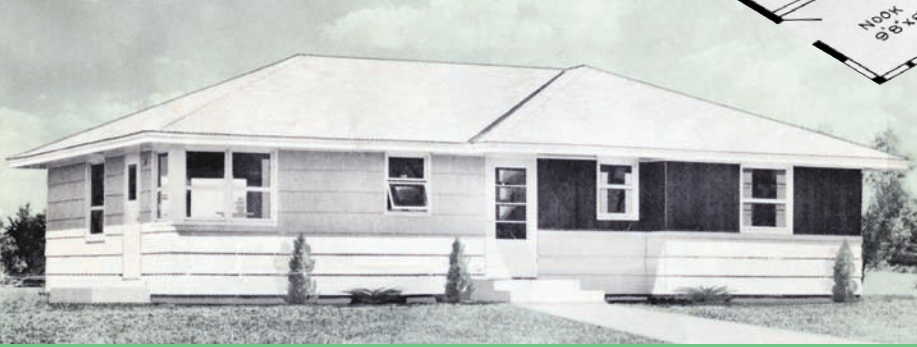
Nancy, who lives in the Orrin Thompson rambler she and her husband bought in 1957, holds the original brochure.



### FROM THE FOREST CREST BROCHURE:



“You’ll love this modern GE kitchen with built-in GE electric oven and GE electric surface range in your choice of color. The Nutone copper hood has a ventilating fan to remove cooking odors, plus a complete copper-tiled recess range area. This kitchen is a homemaker’s dream ...”



“Its natural scenic beauty and excellent location in the sparkling new community of Bloomington will be one of the most attractive new homesites in the entire Northwest. Approximately 150 new, individually styled Orrin Thompson homes will be built in Forest Crest with floor plans, features and planning wanted by prospective new home buyers. Your dream of a new home in an ideal neighborhood can come true when you live in Forest Crest.”



One of 56 outstanding features: “A food mixer, blender and knife sharpener operated from one powerful sealed-in motor.”

## WHAT’S DEVELOPING

### TRAFFIC-MANAGEMENT UPDATE LANE CONVERSION CONTINUES FOR COLLECTOR STREETS

AS PART OF THE CITY’S TRAFFIC-management program, the City Council approved a policy to help ease the speed of traffic on Bloomington’s streets. The policy provides for collector streets that are scheduled for seal coat, overlay or reconstruction and that have traffic volumes less than 10,000 vehicles per day to be changed from four undivided lanes, to two lanes or two lanes with a center, two-way, left-turn lane. The goal is to decrease speeds and increase safety without negatively affecting the level of service of the roadway.

#### Driving three-lane streets

Four-lane to three-lane conversions were completed on Nine Mile Creek Parkway between Stanley Road and

West 90th Street, Poplar Bridge Road between Normandale and France Avenues and on West 102nd Street between Penn and France Avenues. Streets in the metropolitan area that have been converted to two lanes with center, dual left-turn lanes, including West 50th Street in Minneapolis and Fairview Avenue in St. Paul, have existed for a few years, but people may not be familiar with driving them. For roads with three lanes that have traffic flowing in both directions, the center turn lane is reserved for, and is to be used by, all traffic turning left from both lanes. *See photo.* It is illegal to use the center turn lane as a passing lane or for traveling more than 300 feet.



#### Share the road

Most of the converted streets include a striped shoulder. While the striped shoulders are not wide enough to meet bike-lane standards, they may be used by bicyclists. Motorists are encouraged to be aware of bicyclists traveling on the shoulder. For more information, call Amy Marohn, Civil Engineer - Traffic at 952-563-4532 or visit the City’s Web site at [www.ci.bloomington.mn.us](http://www.ci.bloomington.mn.us), keywords: Traffic management.

#### COMPLETED STREETS

Four-lane to two-lane conversions have been completed on West 94th Street between Normandale Boulevard and Nesbitt Avenue and West 84th Street between Garfield and Nicollet Avenues. The street segments of Nesbitt Avenue between West 94th and West 98th Streets, Overlook Drive between Thomas Avenue and West 108th Street, 12th Avenue between 84th and 94th Streets and West 82nd Street between Pleasant and Nicollet Avenues were also completed.



FUN AT THE COMMUNITY CENTER

CREEKSIDE COMMUNITY CENTER IS located at 9801 Penn Ave. S. For more information, call Human Services at 952-563-4957.

ACTIVITIES, CLASSES AND MORE CREEKSIDE HAS LOTS TO OFFER

Residents, age 55 and over or with disabilities, actively participate in more than 60 groups and programs at Creekside. Activities include arts and crafts, card groups, health and wellness, music groups, fitness programs, billiards and woodworking. Creekside also offers computer and defensive driving classes, transportation and food programs, and many volunteer opportunities.



For more information, check out the latest edition of *Senior Splash*, a free quarterly catalog featuring programs, services and activities for seniors. A Bloomington community resources catalog is also available. This popular compilation is updated twice a year and lists valuable resources such as senior and accessible housing, youth, transportation, nutrition and more. The catalog is summarized in Spanish. Russian, Vietnamese and Somali-translated catalogs will be available in 2007. Pick up *Senior Splash* and the resource catalog at Creekside or download copies from the City’s Web site at [www.ci.bloomington.mn.us](http://www.ci.bloomington.mn.us), keywords: Senior Splash or resource catalog.

GET FIT, STAY FIT OLDER ADULT FITNESS PROGRAMS

Human Services offers fun fitness opportunities for older adults. Programs include exercise classes, sports, tai chi, recreational clubs, special events and more. For more information, call 952-563-4949.

CONNECT TO RESOURCES FAMILINK CAN HELP

Human Services FamiLink provides information related to housing, financial assistance, health insurance, legal services, childcare and food resources for people who live, work or attend school in Bloomington. For more information or to request a resource catalog, call 952-563-4957 V/TTY or visit Creekside. Hours are Monday - Friday, 8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

GET TO KNOW US MEETINGS AT CREEKSIDE

Learn about the many programs, activities and opportunities offered to seniors at “Get Acquainted with Creekside” meetings on Wednesdays, **October 4, November 1 and December 6, 10 - 11 a.m.**

SPECIAL EVENTS

CELEBRATE FIRE PREVENTION WEEK VISIT YOUR FIRE STATION AND PUBLIC SAFETY TRAINING FACILITY



**NEW OPEN HOUSE!**  
Public Safety Training Facility  
7525 Braemar Blvd., Edina  
N.E. corner of I-494  
and Hwy. 169

OPEN HOUSE Saturday, October 14, 10 a.m. - 1 p.m.

STATION NO.	ADDRESS	STATION NO.	ADDRESS
1	10 West 95th St.	4	4201 W. 84th St.
2	10601 Xerxes Ave. S.	5	10540 Bush Lake Road
3	2050 E. 86th St.	6	8601 Lakeview Road

THE CITY’S SIX FIRE STATIONS AND PUBLIC SAFETY TRAINING FACILITY CELEBRATE National Fire Prevention Week with an open house on **Saturday, October 14, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.** Firefighters, Police and Public Works staff will be on hand, along with a variety of activities, demonstrations and tours. Free t-shirts and temporary tattoos will be available for kids. For more information, call 952-563-4801.

DISABILITY EMPLOYMENT AWARENESS MONTH OCTOBER FEATURES EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES

HUMAN SERVICES CELEBRATES DISABILITY EMPLOYMENT Awareness Month in October. The goal of this month-long effort is to provide an opportunity for all people with disabilities to learn about job requirements, job placement and training programs, and community advocacy programs. Businesses are also educated about the benefits of hiring individuals with disabilities. For a complete listing of the activities offered throughout the community, visit [www.ci.bloomington.mn.us](http://www.ci.bloomington.mn.us), keywords: DEAM. For more information, call Human Services at 952-563-4957 V/TTY.



BLOOMINGTON YESTERDAY

LYNDALE AVENUE AND 98TH STREET – 1910

NEARLY 100 YEARS AGO, A mile post marked what would later become one of the busiest intersections in Bloomington. By 1910, car registrations in the United States had reached a half million and were rising rapidly. The late Belle Pond St. Martin remembered a relative buying a Model T from Elmer Scott, the area’s first Ford dealer.

“Elmer didn’t show him how to drive it or anything. So his wife sat by him with this book,” she recalled. “We took a ride over to the cemetery and she showed him what to do using this book.” In 1953, Bloomington’s first traffic signal was installed at what by then was considered the “very dangerous” intersection of Lyndale Avenue and 98th Street.



Minnesota Historical Society

HEALTHY YOU

KNOW YOUR RISK FACTORS OCTOBER IS BREAST CANCER AWARENESS MONTH

THINK YOU KNOW all there is to know about breast cancer? Read on.

**MYTH:** Only women get breast cancer.  
**FALSE.** Although rare, more than 1,300 men are diagnosed with breast cancer each year.

**MYTH:** A tumor means cancer.  
**FALSE.** Tumors are the build-up of abnormal cells that form a mass of tissue. A tumor can be benign or malignant.

**MYTH:** Small-breasted women cannot get breast cancer.  
**FALSE.** Size doesn’t matter. Anyone can get breast cancer.

**MYTH:** No one in my family has had it, so I’m not at risk.  
**FALSE.** Most women diagnosed with cancer have no risk factors other than being female and growing older. Increasing age is the biggest single risk factor for breast cancer.

**MYTH:** A mammogram is too expensive if you don’t have insurance.  
**FALSE.** Through the Sage Screening Program, a woman who is uninsured or underinsured and falls within program eligibility guidelines can receive services.

For more information, call 952-922- 2427. The Sage Screening Program is a collaborative effort between the Minnesota Department of Health and Bloomington Public Health. For more information on Breast Cancer Awareness Month, visit the City’s Web site at [www.ci.bloomington.mn.us](http://www.ci.bloomington.mn.us), keywords: Sage.

DON’T TAKE CHANCES GET YOUR FLU SHOT BEFORE THE SEASON STARTS



A FLU SHOT CLINIC WILL BE HELD AT Creekside Community Center, 98th Street and Penn Ave. S., on **Monday, October 16, 9 a.m. to 12 p.m.** Influenza vaccinations, adult pneumococcal and adult tetanus shots are available. Cost is \$20 per shot. For more information, call Public Health at 952-563-8900.



SERVING YOU

ROLL CALL BEGINS  
TELEVISED POLICE PROGRAM

WHAT BEGAN IN A GAS STATION THAT had been converted to a television studio is now Bloomington’s longest running cable program. For 25 years, Bloomington Police have kept residents up-to-date on crime through a weekly television program. *Bloomington Police Weekly Magazine* first aired in 1981. It was the idea of retired Officer Jerry Maher.

“Looking for different community-related, crime-prevention programs, we came up with a television show,” Maher said. “The show gave citizens an inside look at the department while presenting a more personal, human side of police.”

*Crime Time*, a spin-off from the original show, took over in 1994 and ran through May. At that time, *Roll Call*, named after the briefings officers receive before every shift, debuted. Officers Heidi Miller and David Caulfield

produce *Roll Call*’s weekly scripts.

“We find out what happened during the week from officers around the department,” Caulfield said. “*Roll Call* features crime statistics, police events, crime prevention tips and interviews.”

Communications Division’s Grant Parker, *photo left*, edits the show and adds graphics and photos. He and graphics staff created the show’s new look.

“*Roll Call* was updated with much of what we already had,” Parker said. “We added new artwork to the set along with some additional lights and gave the show a splashy new introduction.”

Although the look of the program has changed over the years, the goal is still the same.

“We want citizens to know about the good things we do,” Miller said. “We want to keep in touch with the community because working together prevents crimes.”



*Roll Call* airs **Fridays, at 6 p.m.**, on The Bloomington Channel 14. The show is also available on the City’s Web site at [www.ci.bloomington.mn.us](http://www.ci.bloomington.mn.us), keywords: Roll Call.



**ON AIR**  
Sergeant Linda Miller and Officer Jerry Maher on the set of *Bloomington Police Weekly Magazine* in 1981.

A WORD FROM ANIMAL CONTROL  
ORDINANCE PROHIBITS PETS FROM ROAMING FREELY

MOST PET OWNERS ARE AWARE OF THE City ordinance requiring dogs be kept under restraint at all times. But did you know that cats are also prohibited from roaming freely?

No animal is allowed to be at large within the City. Cats and other pets must always be kept on the owner’s property. Dogs need to be on a leash controlled by a responsible person or, if on the owner’s property, restrained by a secure fence, chain or cable in backyard or under voice control of a person who is present with the animal.

Cats are predators that can significantly decrease the population of song birds and smaller animals, according to Animal Control Officer Bill Forbes. Unlike wildlife that depends on prey for survival, cats are domestic animals that will keep hunting. Cats can also be a nuisance for flower gardens.

The ordinance guards the health, safety and quality of life of residents, but also protects the animal.

“The life expectancy of indoor cats is far higher than that of cats allowed to roam outside,” Forbes said. “Cats are



exposed to many dangers outdoors, including larger predators, disease and traffic.”

For more information, call Animal Control at 952-563-4942.

A BIG CONTRIBUTOR WILL BE MISSED  
DENNY MAY RETIRES AFTER 36 YEARS

LOGGING 60 HOURS AT THE BLOOMINGTON Ice Garden (BIG) was an easy week for former Manager Denny May. He spent so much time at BIG, his wife Patricia jokes that now that he’s retired, she sees too much of him.



*Let’s Play Hockey* Editor Dave McMahon said May is believed to have

been the longest-tenured ice arena manager in Minnesota. May began at BIG in 1970, one month before the rink opened. He was the sole manager for 36 years. Before that, he worked four years at Edina’s Braemar Arena.

In 1970, there were only five rinks in the metropolitan area. Today almost every community has an ice rink. BIG began with one rink and has grown to three rinks with a seating capacity of 2,500.

Hockey is one of May’s favorite sports. Some winters he would build a rink, complete with lights, in his backyard. It was a favorite hangout for his three sons, daughter and some 17 neighborhood kids.

If you’ve been a player or associated with Bloomington hockey, you know Denny May. He has a stack of cards from well-wishers on his retirement. *Star Tribune* sports columnist Sid Hartman mentioned May’s retirement in his column on June 29, which was also May’s 70th birthday.

May says what he’ll miss most is the interaction with people. He credits longtime BIG employees Andy Baltgalvis, now manager, and Bob Carr with making his job a lot easier.

“I enjoyed the friendships I made and seeing the kids progress,” he said “I could have stayed at BIG forever.”



HERE TO SERVE YOU  
MOST FREQUENTLY USED CITY SERVICES

FOUND A LOST DOG? NEED A BUILDING inspection? Whatever information you need – you’ve got our number. The following is a list of the most frequently called City services. For a comprehensive list, visit the City’s Web site at [www.ci.bloomington.mn.us](http://www.ci.bloomington.mn.us), keywords: Phone directory.

**Police/Fire/Medical Response 911**  
*If you cannot complete a call using 911, call 952-563-4900.*

**Animal Shelter**  
952-563-4942

**Business and Pet Licenses**  
952-563-8728

**Center for the Arts**  
952-563-8881

**Creekside Community Center**  
952-563-4944

**Dwan Golf Course**  
952-563-8702

**Housing, financial assistance, health insurance, food or transportation needs, legal services, childcare**  
952-563-4957

**Hyland Greens Golf Course**  
952-563-8868

**Inspections:**

**Building**  
952-563-8930

**Electrical**  
952-563-8931

**Fire**  
952-563-8933

**Heating**  
952-563-8930

**Plumbing**  
952-563-8932

**Job Information Line**  
952-563-8810

**Mayor/City Council**  
952-563-8782

**Motor Vehicle**  
952-563-8719

**Noise, weeds, problem properties**  
952-563-8934

**Parks and Recreation**  
952-563-8877

**Police non-emergency**  
952-563-4900

**Property Information**  
952-563-8722

**Public Health**  
952-563-8900

**Recycling**  
952-563-8750

**Section 8 Housing**  
952-563-8937

**Sewer and Water 24-Hour Emergency**  
952-563-4905

**Sewer and Water Billing**  
952-563-8726

**Voter Registration**  
952-563-8729

**TTY (Text telephone)**  
952-563-8740







THE VALUE OF TREES  
ENERGY SAVINGS AND  
INCREASED PROPERTY VALUES

LANDSCAPE TREES IN MINNESOTA provide benefits that far exceed the cost of planting and care over their lifetime, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture Forest Service research. Environmental and aesthetic benefits, such as energy savings, stormwater runoff reduction, cleaner air and higher property values, are an average three times greater than tree care costs.

**Energy savings:** Well-placed trees can help homeowners’ save up to 30 percent on annual air-conditioning costs and 10 - 25 percent on winter heating costs.

**Higher property values:** Each large, front-yard tree adds 1 percent to a house sales price. Large trees can add 10 percent or more to property values.

To increase the number of trees on residential properties, the City holds a tree sale each spring. In 2006, approximately 180 trees were sold. The City also plants trees in parks and other public areas to ensure that Bloomington’s urban forest continues to be one of the community’s many treasures. For more information, call Paul Edwardson, 952-563-8762.

Source: USDA Forest Service

FALL TREE CARE  
HELP TREES SURVIVE THE COLD

Prepare your trees for the winter by following these tips:

Prune

September through March is a low-risk time to prune trees, especially elm and oak trees. No wound dressing is required.

Water

A dry summer can stress trees so that they may be adversely affected by winter. Water trees slowly and deeply at the tree’s drip line (where the leaves of the tree form the canopy) until the ground freezes.



Mulch

Lay down a fresh layer of mulch to help maintain moisture and protect roots against extreme cold. Apply the mulch after a hard freeze so that the tree can become fully dormant and less susceptible to injury from the cold.

*Earth Action Heroes protect the earth. Whether it’s saving energy or guarding Bloomington’s precious natural resources, these individuals are making a difference. Here are your neighbors in action ...*

EARTH ACTION HEROES  
THE POND PROTECTORS

JOHN AND JULIE HARKNESS ARE TWO OF 250 people, including a large industrial company, whose property surrounds Westhampton Pond in southwest Bloomington. The couple knows the pond increases property values and that residents like the birds, ducks and herons the pond attracts. The challenge is to get the many property owners to agree on the proper steps to improve the pond’s water quality.

“Our main goal is to educate people in our association and surrounding landowners on the importance of

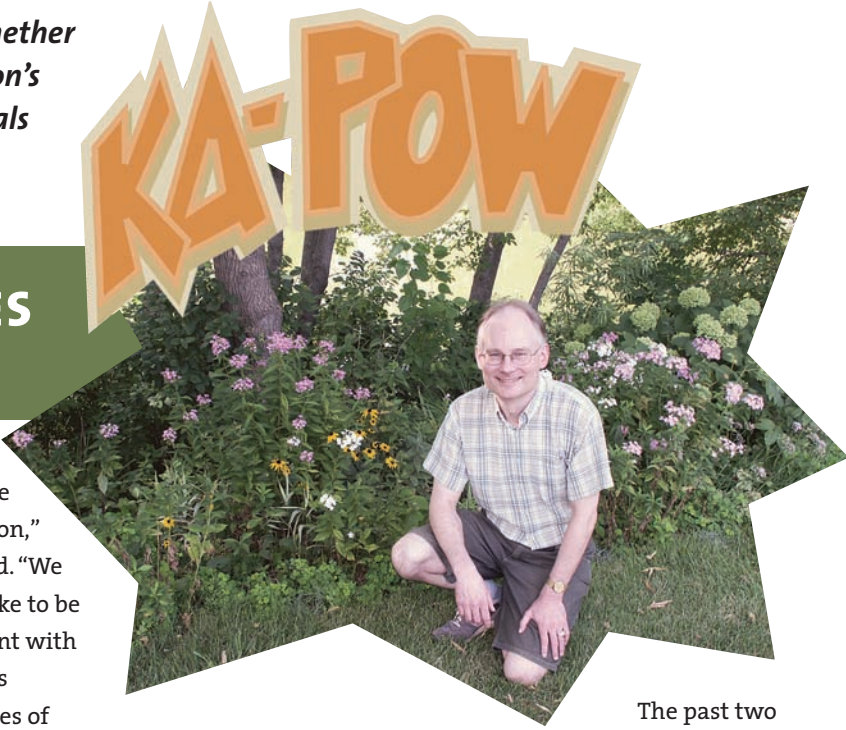


shoreline vegetation,” John said. “We would like to be consistent with the City’s guidelines of maintaining a 10- to 15-foot buffer zone around the entire pond.”

Inspired by Earth Action Hero Kitty Taylor, who organized a water quality and lakescaping seminar and water quality articles that appeared in the *Briefing*, John and Julie gathered their list of benefits of not mowing to the pond’s edge.

“Native plants prevent erosion and reduce pond algae by filtering runoff,” Julie said. “They also improve habitat for wildlife, block geese from walking on the lawn and are naturally beautiful.”

John and Julie worked with the City’s Public Works and Environmental Health staff to find out about the pond’s history and developed a personalized educational brochure to hand out to neighboring associations. They also presented the benefits of maintaining a buffer zone to their townhome’s board.



The past two years have shown some positive results. The Westhampton Townhome Association joined the City’s Adopt-a-Wetland program and the board approved a no-mowing policy along the edge of the pond that has allowed vegetation to grow.

“If we cut down all the trees and vegetation there will be no wildlife to enjoy,” John said. “And that’s what we love about the pond.”

John said most people want to act, they just don’t know what they can do. He believes in thinking globally and acting locally.

“This is something we can do right where we live. Our pond is a great amenity and we want to protect it,” he said. “If everyone took care of their own backyard, we would be better off.”

DON’T FEED WATERFOWL  
WHAT YOU SHOULD KNOW ABOUT FEEDING BIRDS

PEOPLE OFTEN FEED GULLS, GEESE OR DUCKS AT LOCAL BEACHES AND PONDS. WHAT they do not realize is that feeding these animals is detrimental to the birds and the environment. For all waterfowl, the abundance of naturally occurring food and the quality of their diets are the driving forces behind the birds’ ability to survive.



FIVE REASONS NOT TO FEED WATERFOWL



Dependency

Hand feeding can cause large numbers of birds to congregate in areas that are incapable of supporting them. Birds become dependent upon humans for food, which can cause aggressive behavior, overpopulation around small wetlands and ponds, and delay migration to natural wintering sites.

Malnutrition

The food that people typically hand feed to birds, such as bread and crackers, doesn’t provide the necessary energy and nutrients for proper health. Malnutrition leads to muscle deterioration, deformed wings in young birds, decrease in successful reproduction and lower life expectancy.

Disease

Malnourishment and overpopulation allow disease to spread more quickly, potentially infecting thousands of birds with fatal diseases. The risks increase when bird populations become concentrated at feeding sites.



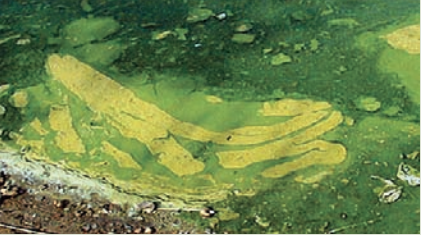
Environmental degradation

Waterfowl naturally congregate in wetlands where natural foods are plentiful. However, hand feeding attracts large numbers of birds that may ultimately cause overgrazing and

degradation to the landscape, making it undesirable for other species and unsightly for humans.


Human health risks

Feeding waterfowl at the pond or beach significantly contributes to poor water quality in the form of fecal coliform bacteria. High levels of this bacteria can sicken beachgoers, close Bush Lake Beach and affect the recreational use of our local waters.



For more information on waterfowl management, call Park Maintenance at 952-563-8760.





## HAVE A SPOOKY GOOD TIME ANNUAL HALLOWEEN PARTY

BLOOMINGTON’S ANNUAL CITYWIDE HALLOWEEN PARTY WILL TAKE PLACE ON **Tuesday, October 31, 6 to 8 p.m.**, at Northwestern Health Sciences University, West 84th Street and Penn Avenue South. Preschoolers through fourth graders, accompanied by an adult, are invited to this fun and safe event. Activities include “Trick-or-Treat Alley,” games, prizes, coloring contest awards and much more. Admission is free, but please bring a non-perishable food item for the VEAP Food Shelf.

The event is sponsored by the Bloomington Breakfast Optimist Club, Northwestern Health Sciences University and City of Bloomington.

The coloring contest and more information are available on the City’s Web site, [www.ci.bloomington.mn.us](http://www.ci.bloomington.mn.us), keyword: Halloween.

AR&LE

THE ADAPTIVE RECREATION AND Learning Exchange offers programs and classes for individuals with disabilities living in the southern metropolitan area. AR&LE sponsors are the cities of Bloomington, Eden Prairie, Edina and Richfield, and local Community Education Adults with Disabilities programs. A quarterly catalog details its activities. For more information, call Parks and Recreation.

GALAXY YOUTH CENTERS

GALAXY YOUTH CENTERS ARE LOCATED in three middle schools: Oak Grove, 1300 W. 106th St.; Olson, 4551 W. 102nd St.; and Valley View, 8900 Portland Ave.

The centers, a joint effort of Bloomington Schools and the City of Bloomington, provide a safe, nurturing environment for youth, grades six to eight. Activities include music, foosball, table tennis, billiards, video games, arts and crafts, service projects and sports. For more information, call 952-681-6107.



CENTER FOR THE ARTS

LOCATED IN BLOOMINGTON CIVIC PLAZA AT THE CORNER OF WEST 98TH STREET AND OLD Shakopee Road, the Center for the Arts is a first-class facility housing eight arts organizations. For facility information, call 952-563-8889. For exhibit information and events, call 952-563-8567 or visit the City’s Web site, [www.ci.bloomington.mn.us](http://www.ci.bloomington.mn.us), keyword: Calendar.

BLOOMINGTON ART CENTER (BAC)

Call 952-563-4777 for more information.



*Rusting at 3500 Cubic Warehouse*  
**Painting** by Gregory Euclide.

INEZ GREENBERG GALLERY

The **43rd Annual Sumi-e Society of America – International Juried Exhibition**, featuring the best current East Asian brush paintings and calligraphy, runs through **October 20**.

**Spatial Flow**, featuring artists Gregory Euclide, Rebecca Silus and Douglas Snyder runs **October 27 - December 2**. Artist’s reception will be held **Friday, October 27, 6 - 8 p.m.**

EXHIBITIONS

Hours:	M - F	8 a.m. - 10 p.m.
	Sa	9 a.m. - 5 p.m.
	Su	1 - 10 p.m.

ATRIUM GALLERY

**Abstract Aerials**, featuring abstract oil paintings by artist Shawn McNulty, runs through **November 3**.

**Twenty Tails of Jesse and Boo**, an exhibit of art and literature for kids and adults runs **November 9 - December 15** and features artist Daniel Buettner.



*FISH? No. 2*  
**Painting** by Daniel Buettner.

SCHNEIDER THEATER



NOTE-ABLE SINGERS

NOTE-able Singers, a women’s show choir, has openings this season. Rehearsals are **Tuesdays, 6:30 - 9:30 p.m., September - May**. For more information, call 952-881-4072 or 952-831-1662.

THURSDAY MUSICAL

The 2006-07 Thursday Morning Artist Series features classical music performed by Twin Cities musicians. Performances are **Thursdays, October 5 and 19, November 2, 16 and 30, and December 14, 10:30 a.m.** Tickets are \$10 at the door. Season tickets (16 concerts) are \$60; \$50 seniors, age 65 and older. Call 612-333-0313 or visit [www.thursdaymusical.com](http://www.thursdaymusical.com).

CONTACT PARKS AND RECREATION AT 952-563-8877 FOR MORE INFORMATION.

MEN’S BASKETBALL LEAGUE

When: Starts November 28.  
*Men’s C* Tuesdays.  
*Men’s D* Wednesdays.  
*Men’s C* Thursdays.  
*Men’s D* Sundays.

Cost: \$510 per team.  
Deadline: November 3.

WOMEN’S BASKETBALL LEAGUE

When: Mondays, beginning November 27.

Where: Bloomington Armory, 3300 W. 98th St.

Cost: \$510 per team.  
Deadline: November 3.

SENIOR VOLLEYBALL LEAGUE

THE BORN AGAIN JOCKS VOLLEYBALL League welcomes men, 55 years and over, with all levels of playing ability. Call Dick Wortman at 952-888-1814.

When: Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays, October 9 - April 27.

Time: Warm-up 8:45 a.m.  
Games 9 a.m.

Where: Jefferson H. S. Activity Center, 102nd St. and France Ave. S.



BLOOMINGTON CIVIC THEATRE  
THE FULL MONTY

Unemployed steelworkers come up with a bold way to make some quick cash. The show’s themes about taking charge of one’s life and following one’s dreams are great lessons for all. Performances are **October 27 - November 19**. Contains adult content. For tickets call 952-563-8575 or visit [www.bloomingtoncivictheatre.org](http://www.bloomingtoncivictheatre.org).



MEDALIST CONCERT BAND  
THE BRITISH ARE COMING!

Come hear British standards, including Holst’s “Second Suite,” Grainger’s “Molly on the Shore,” and Pryor’s “The Blue Bells of Scotland,” performed on **Monday, November 20, 7:30 p.m.** For tickets, call 952-563-8575 or visit [www.bloomingtoncivictheatre.org](http://www.bloomingtoncivictheatre.org).

SPECIAL EVENTS

AN EVENING IN TUSCANY

BAC’s annual fundraiser will be held **Saturday, October 14, 6 p.m.**, at the Minnesota Valley Country Club, 6800 Auto Club Road. The event features wine tasting, dinner, silent and live auctions and entertainment by Vic Volare and the Volare Lounge Orchestra. Tickets are \$65 per person. For reservations, call 952-563-8587.

HOLIDAY ART SALE

Pottery, glass, jewelry, artwork and more will be available for purchase **Wednesday, November 15, 4 - 10 p.m.**, and **Thursday - Saturday, November 16 - 18, 9 a.m. - 10 p.m.**, in the Schneider Theater lobby. These handcrafted items make unique gifts for the upcoming holidays.

BOOKS FOR THE BALLET

Continental Ballet Company is teaming up with Barnes & Noble to hold a fundraising book fair. Present a voucher, available online at [www.continentalballet.com](http://www.continentalballet.com), when you make a purchase on **November 18** at the Mall of America Barnes & Noble. A percentage of the proceeds will benefit the arts. For information, call 952-563-8562.

BLACK BOX THEATER  
GOING MY WAY

Radio Theater Live! presents their version of the film, “Going My Way,” the quintessential Christmas story starring Bing Crosby. Performances are **Thursdays - Saturdays, December 7 - 17, 7:30 p.m.**, and **Sundays, 2 p.m.** Tickets are \$15 adults; \$12 seniors/students, \$12 groups of 12 or more adults on Thursdays. For more information, call 952-563-8587.



2006 GENERAL ELECTION

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 7  
POLLS OPEN 7 A.M. TO 8 P.M.

ON THE BALLOT

- U.S. Senator.
  - U.S. Representative - District 3.
  - State Senators - Districts 40, 41, 63.
  - State Representatives - Districts 40B, 41B, 63B.
  - Governor/Lt. Governor; Secretary of State; State Auditor; and Attorney General.
  - County Sheriff; County Attorney; County Park Commissioner; and County Soil and Water Supervisors.
  - Judicial offices.
- To view a sample ballot, visit [www.ci.bloomington.mn.us](http://www.ci.bloomington.mn.us), keyword: Voting.

WHERE DO I VOTE?

To locate your polling location, see map at right, call Voter Registration at 952-563-8729 or visit [www.ci.bloomington.mn.us](http://www.ci.bloomington.mn.us), keyword: Vote.

WHO IS ELIGIBLE TO VOTE?

- You may vote if you are:
- At least 18 years of age.
  - A U.S. citizen.
  - A Minnesota resident for at least 20 days before the election.
  - A convicted felon whose sentence has been completed or discharged.
  - Not under court-ordered guardianship in which court order revokes your right to vote.
  - Not legally incompetent.

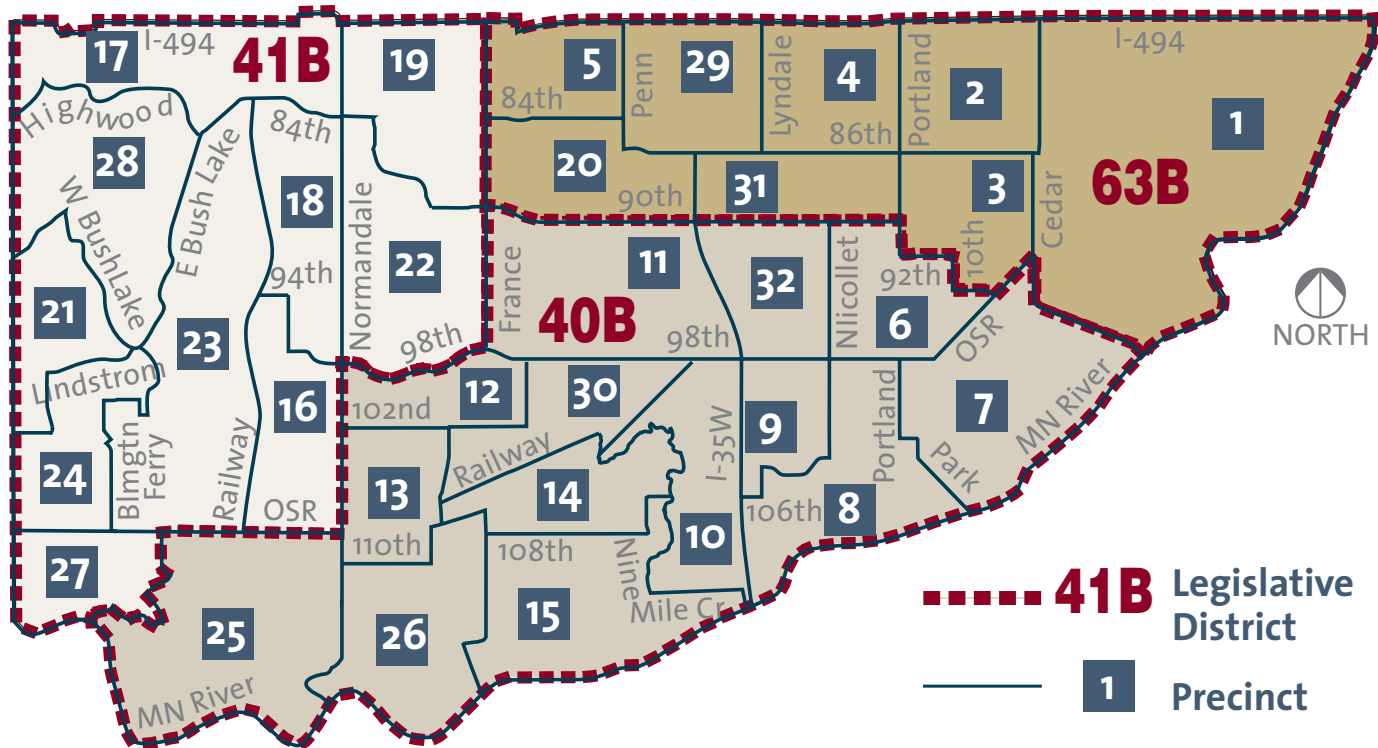
CAN I REGISTER TO VOTE ON ELECTION DAY?

- Yes. You will need one of these authorized proofs of residence:
- A current, valid Minnesota driver's license, learner's permit or ID card (or receipt for one), or Tribal ID that contains your address in the precinct.
  - A Minnesota driver's license, U.S. passport, U.S. military ID card, or Tribal ID that includes your name, and photo, *and* an original utility bill with your name and current address in the precinct, that has a due date within 30 days of Election Day.
  - A "Notice of Late Registration" letter mailed to you by your registration office.
  - A student ID, registration or fee statement with your current address.
  - A registered voter in the precinct where you live to vouch for your residence.
  - Valid registration at another address in the same precinct.

CAN I VOTE BY ABSENTEE BALLOT?

- You can vote by absentee ballot if you are unable to vote in person on Election Day because you are:
- Absent from the precinct.
  - Disabled or ill.
  - An election judge serving in another precinct.
  - Unable to go to the polling place due to a religious holiday or belief.
- Absentee ballot applications are available at City Hall or on the City's Web site, keyword: Voting.

2006 BLOOMINGTON POLLING PLACES



Precinct/Polling location	Entrance/Parking
1 MN Valley National Wildlife Refuge 3815 East 80th Street	West entrance Visitor lot (W)
2 Portland Avenue Methodist Church 8000 Portland Avenue South	Main entrance West lot
3 Cedar Valley Church 8600 Bloomington Avenue	North entrance North lot
4 Emmaus Lutheran Church 8443 2nd Avenue South	East entrance East lot
5 Southtown Baptist Church 2600 West 82nd Street	Main entrance (E) East lot
6 Bloomington Lutheran Church 9350 Portland Avenue South	Main entrance South lot
7 Indian Mounds Elementary School 9801 - 11th Avenue South	Main entrance (N) Northwest lot
8 Riverside Reformed Church 10201 Nicollet Avenue South	North entrance East lot
9 Nativity of Mary School 9901 East Bloomington Freeway	NE school entrance NE lot
10 St. Luke's Lutheran Church 1701 West Old Shakopee Road	NE entrance North lot
11 Bloomington Christian Church 9000 West Bloomington Freeway	South entrance South lot
12 Crosspoint Church 9801 France Avenue South	Main entrance (E) East lot
13 Hubert Olson Elementary School 4501 West 102nd Street	Main entr. (NW) West lot – disabled use front drive
14 Mount Hope Lutheran Church 3601 West Old Shakopee Road	Main entrance (S) South lot
15 Westwood Elementary School 3701 West 108th Street	Main entrance (N) West lot
16 Normandale Hylands United Methodist Church 9920 Normandale Boulevard South	NE entrance (left doors) North lot

Precinct/Polling location	Entrance/Parking
17 Peace Lutheran Church 8600 East Bush Lake Road	Main entrance North lot
18 The Church of St. Edward's 9401 Nesbitt Avenue South	SW entrance – upper level, SW lot
19 St. Stephen Lutheran Church 8400 France Avenue South	Main entrance (W) West lot
20 Washburn Elementary School 8401 Xerxes Avenue South	Main entrance NE lot
21 Sunrise Park Shelter 9401 Bloomington Ferry Road	Only entrance (N) North lot
22 Normandale Hills Elem. School 9501 Toledo Avenue South	Main entrance West lot
23 Community of the Cross Lutheran Church 10701 Bloomington Ferry Road	Main entrance (N) North lot
24 Bloomington Lutheran School 10600 Bloomington Ferry Road	Main entrance (S) S lot - disabled use East side
25 Bethany Missionary Church 6900 Auto Club Road	West entrance W and N lots
26 Southwood Center 4901 West 112th Street	West entrance West lot
27 Bethany Missionary Gymnasium 6900 Auto Club Road	Main entrance South lot
28 Bloomington Fire Station #6 8601 Lakeview Road	Main entrance N. lot and Street
29 Christ the King Lutheran Church 8600 Fremont Avenue South	SW entrance Southwest lot
30 Oak Grove Presbyterian Church 2200 West Old Shakopee Road	Main entrance Northeast lot
31 St. Bonaventure Catholic Church 901 East 90th Street (Social Hall)	Main entrance East lot
32 Oxboro Evangelical Free Church 9431 Nicollet Avenue South	North entrance North lot

VOTING ASSISTANCE AT THE POLLS  
NEW TOOL TO BE IMPLEMENTED IN 2006

CONGRESS PASSED FEDERAL LEGISLATION requiring that all polling places be equipped with a voter assist terminal designed to provide voters with disabilities the opportunity to vote privately and independently. All precincts in Minnesota will have an AutoMARK, an "electronic pen," to assist voters who have disabilities in marking the optical scan paper ballot.

The AutoMARK does not tabulate or tally votes. Voters who choose to use the AutoMARK are given the same

paper ballot as everyone else. Instead of marking the ballot with a pen, the voter inserts the ballot into the AutoMARK that provides an electronic display or an audio version of the ballot. The AutoMARK allows the user to review and verify selections before the device marks the ovals on the ballot. The voter then inserts the ballot into the ballot counter used by all voters in the precinct.

The new device does not completely eliminate the need for assistance. Voters

may bring a friend to assist them or ask an election judge for help. All Bloomington polling places are accessible.

For more information, call the City Clerk's Office at 952-563-8729.

